

22nd September 2026



Alsop High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to thank you for your continued support and to share some of the many positives from the start of the new academic year.

A strong start to the year

Since my last letter, we have continued to build on the significant improvements made across Alsop. Our focus remains clear: creating a calm, safe and purposeful school where students attend regularly, behave well and receive the highest quality education. It has been particularly pleasing to see our new Year 7 students settle so quickly into life at Alsop. Their attendance is currently around 96%, and they have responded extremely well to our routines and expectations.

Across the school, our strengthened routines around morning line-ups, punctuality, uniform, equipment, and movement between lessons are making a real difference. Students are increasingly moving around the school calmly, arriving ready to learn and understanding exactly what is expected of them.

Our new phone free approach has also made an excellent start. Students have responded positively to phone pouches, and we are already seeing the benefits of removing the distraction of mobile phones during the school day. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting us with this important change.

HMI Ofsted visit – recognising our progress

Last week, we welcomed His Majesty's Inspector (HMI) back to Alsop as part of the ongoing monitoring of the school. The visit was an important opportunity for inspectors to look closely at the progress in some key areas we have made since our previous inspection. Inspectors visited lessons, spoke with students and staff, reviewed our work, and considered the impact of the changes we have introduced.

I am not yet able to share with parents and carers the positive changes reflected within the report or its formal findings. As soon as the report is formally published, I will share this with our whole school community. What I can say is that the visit gave us an important opportunity to demonstrate the considerable progress taking place across Alsop.

Inspectors were able to see a calmer and more purposeful school culture, with clearer routines, stronger expectations and improvements in behaviour and attendance. They were also able to see the work taking place to strengthen safeguarding and the support provided for our most vulnerable students.

Importantly, our improvement journey is about much more than behaviour and routines. We have continued to strengthen our curriculum and the quality of teaching across the school. There is greater consistency in classrooms, clearer expectations around students' work and an increasing focus on ensuring that teaching is ambitious and accessible for all learners.

We know that there is still more to do, and we will continue to be ambitious for our students. However, I am extremely proud of the progress our staff and students have made and look forward to being able to share the full HMI report with you.

Attendance continues to improve

Attendance remains one of our highest priorities because there is a clear link between being in school every day and achieving well. Last year, whole-school attendance improved by approximately 3 percentage points, while persistent absence reduced significantly. We have also seen a very encouraging start from Year 7 this year.

My Child at School App (MCAS) - Parent App

We encourage all parents and carers to download the My Child at School (MCAS) App, as we now use MCAS app for school payments, including lunch payments. **Please do not add any further funds to Parent Pay.** Information can be found on our website [Parent App | Alsop High School](#)

Free School Meals – Important Changes from September 2026

From September 2026, the eligibility rules for Free School Meals have changed, meaning many more families may now be entitled to support. This means that even if your child was not eligible previously, they may be eligible now. I would strongly encourage every family receiving Universal Credit to complete the eligibility check, even if you are unsure whether you qualify. It only takes a few minutes. Please follow this link to use the **Free School Meals Eligibility Checker** [Check | LGfL FSM](#)

Open Evening – Wednesday 23rd September

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective students and their families to our Open Evening on Wednesday 23rd September. This will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the progress taking place at Alsop and to celebrate our students, staff, curriculum and wider school community. To allow us to prepare for the evening, school will close at **2.00pm on Wednesday 23rd September**. Many of our students will also be supporting departments and welcoming visitors during the evening. There is no better way to demonstrate what Alsop is becoming than through the young people who attend our school every day.

Key Dates

- Wednesday 23rd September – Open Evening (school closes at 2pm)
- Thursday 15th October – Year 7 Parents Evening (Settling In)
- Friday 16th October – Year 11 Mock Interview Day
- Monday 26th – Friday 30th October – Half term Holidays
- Friday 27th November – INSET Day (School Closed)
- Thursday 10th December – Year 11 & 13 Parents Evening
- Friday 18th December – End of full term (School closes at 12:30pm)

Proud of our progress

The last two weeks have provided many reasons to be proud of our school. We welcomed HMI and had the opportunity to demonstrate our progress. We are seeing calmer corridors and stronger routines. Attendance continues to improve. Our phone-free approach has started positively. Most importantly, we continue to strengthen our curriculum and the quality of teaching our students receive every day. There is still more to do, and we will not become complacent. We will continue to raise expectations, improve teaching, and provide additional support for those students who need it most.

Thank you to our staff for their tremendous hard work, to our students for responding so positively and to you, our parents, and carers, for continuing to support the school. Alsop is moving forward, and we should all be proud of the progress being made.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Mee

Head of School